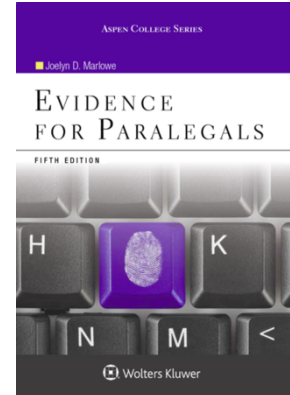


Western Kentucky University
Department of Political Science
PLS 350 Evidence
3 credit hours
Course Syllabus Fall 2024

Instructor: Kelsey Truxal, esquire
Office Location: Cherry Hall 319B
Classroom Location: Cherry Hall 103 (subject to change)
Office Phone Number: 270-339-5605
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A. COURSE NECESSITIES

Marlowe, Joelyn D., *Evidence for Paralegals* (Aspen, 5th ed.)
(any edition is okay, but note that chapter references in this syllabus are from the 5th edition)



B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and apply the Federal Rules of Evidence;
2. Understand the role that paralegals make in researching evidentiary issues;
3. Prepare pleadings and other legal documents according to the requirements of the local, state and federal rules;
4. Identify phases in civil trial process;
5. Understand the most common Hearsay rules and objections;
6. Identify Hearsay exceptions and anticipate the basis for such arguments;
7. Assist with pre-trial analysis of Evidence and recognize potential admissibility issues.
8. Demonstrate a basic understanding of Constitutional principles that effect admissibility in a trial.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL STUDIES MAJORS: This course is required for all professional legal studies majors. For this course to count toward your degree, you must receive a final grade of “C” or above. For those majors receiving a final grade of “D” or “F,” you must retake the course.

C. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. “Attendance” includes timely appearance in all synchronous class sessions. You cannot appropriately participate and be successful if you do not attend class regularly. Students must email the professor PRIOR TO CLASS to inform the professor in order to receive an excused absence. **You will receive an “F” in this course if you miss more than four class meetings without an excused absence.** Students who arrive more than fifteen minutes after class has started will be determined to be “absent.” These attendance standards are not set by the professor, rather, these are required under the ABA Accreditation Guidelines.

D. CLASS COMMUNICATIONS

A copy of this Syllabus will be posted on TopNet **and** Blackboard prior to the beginning of the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to refer to the Syllabus regularly for assignment and examination schedules. **The Syllabus is an estimate of progress through material, and the Instructor retains the right to modify the Syllabus as necessary throughout the semester.**

All other course communication will occur during face-to-face classes or via Blackboard. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor Blackboard **and** their WKU email accounts regularly for assignments, deadlines, and scheduling.

E. HONOR CODE

Academic honesty is expected. WKU, Potter College of Arts and Letters, the Political Science Department, and the Professional Legal Studies Program desire to maintain the highest academic integrity. Acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating or dishonesty will not be tolerated. Pursuant to the WKU Student Code of Conduct, dishonesty can include “cheat, plagiarism, misrepresenting of oneself or an organization, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, or omitting relevant or necessary information to gain benefit, to injure or to defraud. Offenses will be treated in the following manner:

1. **First Offense-** Student will receive a “0” for any assignment and/or exam in which they have been suspected of plagiarism. If the student reaches out to the professor within seven (7) days of the posted grade, the student will have an opportunity to resubmit their work with a letter grade deduction.

2. **Second Offense-** Student will receive a “0” for the assignment with no opportunity to resubmit assignments.

3. **Third Offense-** Student will be receive a “0” and be referred to the Department Head and/or the Dean of Students’ Office.

F. STUDENT INFORMATION

The Instructor reserves the right to remove any student from the classroom for disruptive or disrespectful behavior. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Disrespectful treatment of peers and/or instructor(s);
2. Irresponsible use of electronic devices in class;
3. Engaging in activities that disruptive to the learning environment;
4. Use of offensive and/or discriminatory remarks.

G. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:

For the Instructor to make appropriate classroom accommodations for Students with learning or other disabilities, it is requested that the Student contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center. However, students should not be discouraged from reaching out even if they did not receive accommodations in high school. While students are encouraged to reach out regarding his/her disability **prior to the beginning of this semester**, students are allowed to pursue accommodations throughout the semester. For more information please see:

<https://www.wku.edu/sarc/>

IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION:

All WKU students may access information relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act classroom/course accommodation requirements, Title IX sexual assault reporting requirements, student complaints and grievances, active shooter preparedness, emergency preparedness, student legal services, counseling services and police services at:

<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/index.php>

H. Late Work

Students are expected to submit all work in a timely manner. This course addresses the legal field and dealing with courts. There are often legal deadlines that are nonnegotiable and must be met. In keeping with the spirit of deadlines, the instructor will not accept late work under any circumstances unless an extension is pursued. To request an extension, students must (1) contact the instructor via email no later than 24 hours before the due date of the assignment unless an emergency exists, (2) provide an objectively valid reason and (3) provide the Instructor with the new date they are able to meet.

I. Assignments:

PLEASE BE ADVISED that the professor reserves the right to make changes as needed to facilitate learning.

Exercises:	30 points (5 points each) (6 total)
Weekly Assignments:	20 points (2 points each)(10 total)
Final Project:	20 points (20 points) (1 total)
Exams:	30 points (10 points each) (3 total)
TOTAL:	100 points

Weekly Assignments: These assignments are considered “formative,” meaning they are extremely low stakes and are designed to help you through the learning process.

Exercises: Exercises will be completed outside of class and will allow students to demonstrate real world skills that connect to course material.

Projects: Students will create individual project on overarching themes for the course. Specific guidelines will be provided at a later date.

COURSE CALENDAR

*****All dates and assignments are tentative and subject to change*****

Week	Class Date	Module	Topic	Readings	Assignment
1	8/20 & 8/22	M1	Introduction		
2	8/27 & 8/29	M1	Introduction	Ch. 1	Weekly 1 Exercise 1
3	9/3 & 9/5	M2	Relevancy	Ch. 2	Weekly 2
4	9/10 & 9/12	M3	Character	Ch. 3	Weekly 3 Exercise 2
5	9/17 & 9/19	M4	Habit	Ch. 4	Weekly 4
6	9/24 & 9/26	M5	Witnesses and Competency	Ch. 5	Weekly 5 Exercise 3
		M1-5	Exam 1		
7	10/1 & 10/3	M6	Impeachment	Ch. 6	Weekly 6
8	(No class 10/8) 10/10	M7	Settlement, Negotiation, Remedial Measures	Ch. 8	Weekly 7 Exercise 4
9/10/11	10/15 & 10/17 10/22 (No class 10/24) 10/29 (No class 10/31)	M8/M9	Hearsay/Hearsay Exceptions	Ch. 9/ Ch. 10	Weekly 8 Exercise 5
		M6-9	Exam 2		
12	(No class 11/5) 11/7	M10	Authentication and Objections	Ch. 11	Weekly 9
13	11/12 & 11/14	M11	Constitutional Considerations	Ch. 12	Weekly 10 Exercise 6
14	11/19 & 11/21	M12	Privileges	Ch. 13	
15	11/26		Trial Assignments		Final Project
16	Finals Week	M9-12	Exam #3		